



CDSS

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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

FLOOR ALERT

November 3, 2009

The Honorable Members of the Senate
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senators:

SUBJECT: Opposition to SB 69, As Amended November 2, 2009

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) opposes SB 69, which would delay implementation of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program changes enacted through the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Budget.

We share the Legislature's interest in providing a smooth and safe transition, but at this point, statutory changes would reverse actions already taken and further confuse the implementation process. It is better to focus the collective efforts of CDSS staff, county welfare department staff, public authority and labor partners on resolving issues for the recipients that might experience difficulty getting their chosen *new* provider enrolled. SB 69, as passed by the Assembly yesterday, does not merely provide a 60 day extension. It would extend implementation, revise the stakeholder process and institute new legislative reporting requirements. Furthermore, it does not acknowledge that final instructions have been issued, the automated system changes are operational, a large number of counties have established relationships with the Department of Justice for purposes of obtaining criminal background records, and translations of forms and other documents into other languages will be completed on November 10. Reversing these changes already implemented would add to administrative costs and create confusion.

Most importantly, the bill does not make substantive changes and there is significant concern about extending the deadline without changing the statutory direction. An extension without substantive changes will not lead to a different result. To that end, the Administration proposed clean-up language at the end of summer and remains interested in making those changes.

Finally, the magnitude of the issue has been overstated. It is not tens of thousands that will be affected. Recipients can work with their county social worker and public authority to find another existing provider or find a provider from the registry, just as they would if their provider was ill. Additionally, it is important to keep in mind that prior to these changes it would take about six weeks for a new provider to receive his or her first paycheck. Based

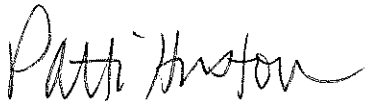
on historical system data, approximately 250 new providers are enrolled each day and one-third of those were previously enrolled as providers.

Over the past two months, CDSS has issued 24 letters and instructional notices, and has made changes to the IHSS system (CMIPS). The All County Letters and Information Notices were shared in draft with stakeholders prior to their release. We acknowledge that there are provisions of the new laws that need to change, such as the crimes for which an existing or prospective IHSS provider would be disqualified from participating as a provider in the IHSS program.

Absent a discussion of the substantive changes provided previously by the Administration, we should focus the collective efforts of CDSS, county staff, public authority and labor partners on resolving issues for the small percentage of beneficiaries that might experience difficulty getting their chosen new provider enrolled.

For these reasons, we urge your "no" vote on SB 69.

Sincerely,



Patricia Huston
Deputy Director for Legislation

- c. Danny Alvarez, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
- Jennifer Troia, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee #3
- Christian Griffith, Assembly Budget Committee
- Nicole Vazquez, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1
- Seren Taylor, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
- Chantelle Denny, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
- Julie Souliere, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
- Jack Hailey, Senate Human Services Committee
- Joe Parra, Senate Republican Policy Office
- Eric Gelber, Assembly Human Services Committee
- Mary Bellamy, Assembly Republican Policy Office
- Myesha Jackson, Office of the Senate Pro Tempore
- Gail Gronert, Office of the Assembly Speaker
- Scott Carney, California Health and Human Services Agency
- Jennifer Kent, Office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger